Demand and Supply of Raw Silk

1517. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the supply of indigenous raw silk is much less than the demand;

(b) if so, the details of steps presently being taken to bridge the gap; and

(c) what strategies are being adopted to increase the production of raw silk, indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The production and consumption of raw silk in the country during the last three years is indicated below:

(in tonnes)

Year	Production	Consumption
1996-97	14126	18000
1997-98	15236	18500
1998-99	15544	20000

(b) To meet the shortfall in the domestic demand for raw silk Government has permitted import. Presently Government has permitted import under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) wherein, the exporters are allowed to bring in duty free raw silk which is linked to export obligation. In addition to meet the demand for superior quality mulberry raw silk, the Government has permitted import of mulberry raw silk of Grade 2A and above by canalisation through Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation (HHEC), National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) and other State Corporations dealing with Handlooms/Powerlooms and silk.

(c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D, training,

infrastructural and extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units and implementation of certain developmental/incentive/ financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk.

Condition of Jute Industry

1518. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite India being the largest producer of jute and jute products the country has been facing a depressed market for the both the fibre and fabric in recent years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that production of raw jute is in a disorganized shape; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the condition of jute industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Export of jute products has shown a decline during 1999-2000 particularly in major items sacking, yarn CBC due to competition from cheaper and lighter synthetic substitutes and also due to competition from Bangladesh. As regards export of raw jute, its quantity is very negligible.

(b) The reduction in the production of raw jute crop size is attributable to shrinkage in area in jute cultivation caused by unprecedented late arrival of monsoon in almost all jute growing states. With a view to ensure that the jute growers get remunerative prices, the Minimum Support Price for Jute for the current year has been raised from Rs. 650 per quital last year, to Rs. 750/quintal.

(c) Government have taken a number of steps to improve the condition of jute industry including launching of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, compliance of Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, Participation in various Trade Fairs, and implementation of Export Market Assistance Scheme.